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a large control rod comprising four control rod blades extending radially from a central portion and arranged at right angles to each other, said blades defining four quadrants of said fuel cell, each said quadrant containing only four independent fuel bundles, each said independent fuel bundle comprising a handle to facilitate lowering said fuel bundle into said core;

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said plurality of fuel cells arranged so that said control rods are in a staggered row pattern where each side of each said quadrant of a fuel cell is adjacent to a control rod blade.

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10. (thrice amended) A nuclear reactor core configuration, said core comprising a plurality of independent fuel bundles and a plurality of large control rods, each said independent fuel bundle comprising a handle to facilitate lowering said fuel bundle into said core, each said control rod comprising four control rod blades extending radially from a central portion and arranged at right angles to each other, said blades defining four fuel bundle receiving channels, said configuration comprising:

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said plurality of large control rods arranged in a staggered row pattern; and
said fuel bundles arranged with only four independent fuel bundles in each said receiving channel and two sides of each of said four independent fuel bundles adjacent a control rod blade.

Remarks

The Office Action dated September 18, 2002 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12, and 13 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12, and 13 stand rejected.